

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A battery storing device comprising:
a battery storing section that can store a battery inside and has a heat retaining function of retaining heat of the battery that is stored inside using vacuum heat insulating material;
a heat retention releasing mechanism for releasing the heat retaining function; and
an independent discharge circuit having a heating resistor ~~capable of being directly coupled to the battery,~~

wherein the heat retention releasing mechanism opens and closes an opening for making air flow between the inside and outside of the battery storing section; and

said independent discharge circuit is directly coupled to the battery and can perform discharge independently from the charge/discharge operation of a main circuit.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) A battery storing device according to claim 1, wherein the independent discharge circuit has at least a PTC device.

6. (Previously presented) A battery storing device according to claim 1, further comprising: a temperature detector for detecting temperature inside the battery storing section; and a circuit control section for controlling the independent discharge circuit based on the temperature detected by the temperature detector.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) A battery storing device according to claim 1, wherein the heat retention releasing mechanism comprises: a heat conductor forming a heat conduction route for conducting heat between the inside and outside of the battery storing section; and

a mechanism for opening and closing the heat conduction route.

9. (Previously presented) A battery storing device according to claim 1, further comprising: a temperature detector for detecting temperature inside the battery storing section; and

a heat-retention release control section for controlling the heat retention releasing mechanism based on the temperature detected by the temperature detector.

10. (Previously presented) A battery storing device according to claim 1, wherein the battery is a lithium secondary battery.

11. (Previously presented) A power supply device comprising: a battery storing device according to claim 1; and a battery stored in the battery storing device.

12. (Original) An electric vehicle comprising: a power supply device according to claim 11; and

an electrically driven mechanism for being driven by power supply from the power supply device.